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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

U. Acting Secretary 0595

(R)

DATE: August 21, 1952

SUBJECT: Crown Prince Savang's Call on the Acting Secretary

PARTICIPANTS: Crown Prince Savang of the Kingdom of Laos
The Acting Secretary
Mr. Bonsal

COPIES TO: U - The Acting Secretary
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Amembassy, Saigon
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Prince Savang informed me that the Government of Laos desired to establish a diplomatic mission in Washington. He said that it had been decided that a legation headed by a minister would be appropriate to the circumstances of the country and to the nature of its representation elsewhere. I replied that I welcomed the decision of the Laotian Government and looked forward to the closer relationship which would be facilitated by the establishment of a mission here.

Prince Savang then took up the question of the French officer, non-commissioned officer cadres which are currently training the Laotian army. He stated that his government had been much concerned by the decision of the French authorities to withdraw these cadres in the relatively near future. The Prince said that this would be a severe blow to the Laotian program for creating effective armed forces able to guarantee the security of the country against infiltrations from Communist China. He referred particularly to the training and equipping of parachute troops which represent so important a contribution to the mobility and striking force of the Laotian Army. The Prince expressed full understanding of and sympathy with the problems faced by the French and expressed the hope that this particular decision might at least be deferred. I expressed general sympathy with the desire of the Laotian Government to expedite the development of its own armed forces but made no comment on this particular issue.

FE:PSA:PWBonsal:cst

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